

pressurized gas cartridge 24 is disposed angularly relative to the device into a recess 32 at the aft end of the aft body section 22 with pivoting door 34 open. The pressurized gas cartridge 24 is inserted as seen in Figs. 2 and 3 with a penetrable end disposed toward a penetrator member 38. Landau then states "[t]he door 34 is then forcefully pivoted closed, to the position seen in Figs. 1 and 4, which results in the pressurized gas cartridge 24 being pivoted into axial alignment with the body 18, and then being forced slightly forwardly within the recess 32, and consequently results in the gas cartridge 24 being impaled upon the penetrator member 38, as seen in Fig. 4. Penetration of the pressurized gas cartridge 24 by the penetrator member 38 (which is a tubular member) communicates pressurized gas through the penetrator member 38, and into the blind bore 40 of a stem member 42 (upon which the trigger sleeve 20 is movably and sealingly carried), and to a valve chamber (to be further explained) through which communication of pressurized gas is controlled by the relative position of the trigger sleeve 20."

The combination of the door 34 and the penetrator member 38 enables the liberation of gas from the pressurized gas cartridge 24 in a manner that may correspond to the function of the initiation device recited in the pending claims.

In this regard, however, the circuit elements of the Landau device comprise the cylinder bore, the cartridge 24, as well as the combination door 34 and penetrator member 38. When the circuit of elements is in an assembled state, the door is necessarily in a closed position as shown in Fig. 1 and thus covers the cartridge 24 as well as the recess 32. In such an instance, the cartridge has to be removed from the recess 32 of the Landau device, within the circuit of elements by at least disassembling that circuit, i.e., by opening the door 34.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, wherein the housing, the circuit of elements being in an assembled state, is accessible from the outside so that the pyrotechnic charge can be inserted into the housing directly in the circuit of elements, independently of the other

elements. At least for the reason that any corresponding circuit of elements shown in the Landau device must necessarily be modified in order to allow removal of the pressurized gas cartridge, which the Office Action correctly asserts is not a pyrotechnic charge (cartridge), the pressurized gas charge 24 cannot be inserted into the housing directly in the circuit of elements, independently of the other elements.

For at least this reason, Landau neither teaches, nor would it have suggested, the specific combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 1 upon which the Office Action relies on this reference as teaching.

The Office Action concedes that Landau does not teach the use of a pyrotechnic charge. Rather, the Office Action relies upon Castellano or Schwebel as allegedly teaching such a feature, concluding that one of ordinary skill in the art would have predictably replaced the pressurized gas cartridge of Landau with the pyrotechnic charge of either Schwebel or Castellano in the manner suggested. The analysis of the Office Action in this regard fails for at least the following reasons.

Each of Castellano and Schwebel describe a circuit of elements in which in an assembled state, the initiation device, respectively, the actuating member 20 and the plunger 36, cover the pyrotechnic charge as well as its housing, respectively, the chamber 18 containing the gas, and the housing containing the pyrotechnic charge 25. The result of these varied constructions is that even if one of ordinary skill in the art would have replaced the initiation device (door 34 and penetrator member 38), as well as the pressurized gas cartridge 24, disclosed in Landau with an initiation device and a pyrotechnic charge of either Castellano or Schwebel, the initiation device would still cover the pyrotechnic charge when the circuit of elements is assembled. The housing would still not be accessible from outside when the circuit of elements is in an assembled state. As such, even these asserted

combinations of references would not have suggested the combination of all the features positively recited in independent claim 1.

Bellhouse does not mention the use of a pyrotechnic cartridge as a gas generator. Further, Bellhouse teaches that a replaceable compressed gas cartridge 22 with a reservoir 24 containing the active particle is placed in housing 20 covering the cartridge 22 before being inserted into the housing 56 of the body 4. In this regard, Bellhouse does not make up for the identified shortfall in the application of the other applied references to the subject matter of the pending claims.

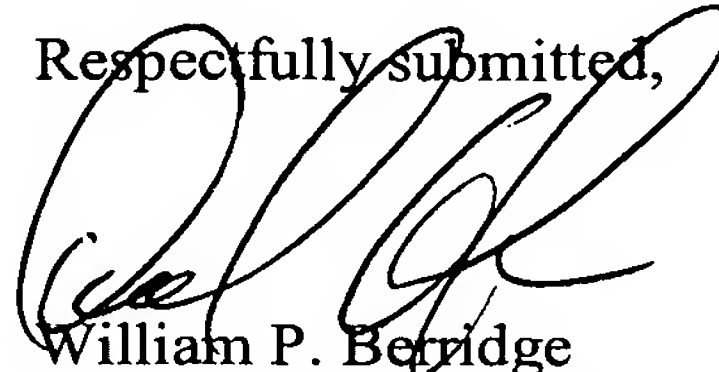
For at least the foregoing reasons, no permissible combination of Landau with Castellano, Schwebel or Bellhouse can reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-12 also would not have been suggested by any combination of these references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the varying combinations of applied references enumerated in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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